

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

This amendment is submitted in response to the Final Office Action dated July 19, 2005. Reconsideration and allowance are requested.

Claims 1, 2, 3, 10, and 12 remain in this application. Claims 4-9, 11, and 13-24 were previously canceled.

Counsel for assignee thanks the Examiner and his supervisor for the telephone interview conducted September 22, 2005 where the Final Office Action rejections were discussed.

Claim Rejection Under 35 USC 103

In the Office Action, claim 1 was rejected under 35 USC 103(a), as being unpatentable over Sanada et al. (E.P. 0 881 560 A2) in view of Suzuki (U.S. 5,796,736). Additionally, claims 2, 3, 10, and 12 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a), as being unpatentable over Sanada. The counsel for assignee respectfully traverses.

In order to establish *prima facie* obviousness three basic criteria must be met. First, there must be some suggestion or motivation either in the references themselves or in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the reference or to combine the reference teachings. Second, there must be a reasonable expectation of success. Third, the prior art references (or references when combined) must teach or suggest all of the claimed limitations. The teachings or suggestions to make the claimed invention and the reasonable expectation of success must be found in the prior art and not based on Applicant's disclosure. See *In re Vaeck* 947 F.2d 488, 20 USPQ2d 1438 (Fed. Cir. 1991) and MPEP 2143. The counsel for assignee respectfully submits that the Examiner has not satisfied all three criteria outlined in MPEP 2143.

First, counsel does not believe that there is any suggestion or motivation either in the references themselves or in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art to combine Suzuki with Sanada as suggested by the Examiner. In the office action the Examiner acknowledged that Sanada "does not explicitly state the replacement of identification

information for when the connection port is replaced" but that "Suzuki discloses a network auto-discovery method wherein the network nodes are automatically recognized and connection information is automatically accessed." The Examiner then argued that one of ordinary skill "would have found it obvious to combine the control table provided by Sanada et al. with the automatic discovery method of network nodes taught by Suzuki in order to keep track of all nodes in the network." Counsel for assignee vigorously traverses. Assuming *arguendo* that there is a desire to keep track of all nodes in the network there is still no reason why any "security information in which access disabled is set are registered in the control table" because the nodes could be tracked with any other means or with its own table and not the control table. Counsel respectfully submits that the only motivation for updating the control table is found in the invention and disclosure and not in the cited references.

Second, counsel does not believe that the prior art references (or references when combined) teach or suggest all of the claimed limitations. Specifically, neither Sanada or Suzuki teach "replacement of the connection port is detected by the storage controller on the basis of information notified from the information exchanger, and in the control table, ... identification information of the newly added input/output port and security information in which access disabled is set are registered in the control table." The Examiner has already acknowledged that Sanada "does not explicitly state the replacement of identification information for when the connection port is replaced." Furthermore, Suzuki does not disclose updating a control table, when the connection status of the input/output port was changed or that a control table includes identification information of upper node device, identification information of input/output port of the upper node device and information concerning access enabled or access disabled. Suzuki only relates to automatically recognizing relationships of physical connections between each of ATM switches in an ATM network and each of ATM terminals. Counsel does not believe that the prior art references (or references when combined) teach or suggest all of the claimed limitations.

Therefore, claim 1 is not believed obvious under *In re Vaack* and MPEP 2143 because there is no motivation for updating the control table as suggested in the Office Action. Additionally claim 1 is not believed obvious because assuming *arguendo* that there was

motivation for updating the control table, all of the claimed limitations of claim 1 are still not disclosed. Claims 2, 3, 10, and 12 are also not believed obvious under In re Vaack and MPEP 2143 because they depend from claim 1.

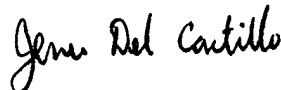
Nevertheless, in an effort to expedite prosecution and to *further* distinguish the claimed invention from Sanada and Suzuki, claim 1 has been amended. Specifically claim 1 has been amended to include "wherein said security information is added to the port name information so as to constitute the fiber channel port configuration information of the upper node device." Support for this amendment to the claims can be found in page 8 lines 8-12 of the originally filed specification or in paragraph [0028] of the published application. Since claims 2, 3, 10, and 12 depend from claim 1, these claims are also amended because of their dependency. In light of this amendment and the above arguments, counsel believes that the pending claims are allowable.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance and an action to that end is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 650-326-2400.

Respectfully submitted,



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